

SERIAL NO. 10/720,912

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been amended herein to obviate the objection of informality. Claims 2-9 also have been amended to clarify that the optional monomers are excluded from the Markush group but can be present as an additional monomer. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on Bair ('488). The Examiner has alleged that Bair discloses a polyvinyl alcohol polymer grafted with water soluble/dispersible cationic 2-methacryloyloxyethyl trimethyl ammonium chloride (METAC), dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate (DMAEMA), dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamide (DMAPMA). Bair suggests that anionic and nonionic monomers including those listed by the Examiner can be grafted onto polyvinyl alcohol with or without cationic monomer; however, no examples are given for such grafting or the weight percent of such monomer which can be grafted. Furthermore, the patent is directed only to the use of cerium compounds as initiator for the polymerization of polyvinyl alcohol and a cationic monomer (METAC) for use in clarifying waste water systems. In contrast, in this invention, METAC is excluded from the Markush group of claim 2, as are DMAEMA and DMAPMA (only used herein in combination with the primary undisclosed monomers in this invention. Furthermore, cosmetic compositions are not disclosed or suggested in the reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on Jacquet ('384). The Examiner has alleged that '384 prepared a 50:50 graft copolymer of quaternized dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate onto polyvinyl alcohol. However, these monomers have been excluded from the Markush group in claim 2. They are only present in combination with the primary monomers of the specific members of the Markush group of amended claim 2. Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

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Applicant respectfully maintains that the claims as amended define patentable invention over the cited references. Reconsideration and early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Davis", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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